[NAME OF AGENCY]

[NAME OF REVIEWING UNIT]

General Plan Safety Element Assessment
Version 1

[DATE]

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Purpose and Background: The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF/Board) is required to review and make recommendations for the fire safety element of general plan updates in accordance with Government Code (GC) §65302.5. The review and recommendations apply to those general plans with State Responsibility Area (SRA) (Public Resources Code 4125) or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) (GC 51175).

The statutory requirements for the Board review and recommendations pursuant to GC 65302.5 (a)(1) and (2), and (b) are as follows:

- *"The draft elements...to the fire safety element of a county's or a city's general plan…shall be submitted to the Board at least 90 days prior to… the adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan [for each county or city with SRA or VHFHSZ]."*

- *"The Board shall… review the draft or an existing safety element and report its written recommendations to the planning agency within 60 days of its receipt of the draft or existing safety element…."*

- *"Prior to adoption of the draft element…, the Board of Supervisors… shall consider the recommendations made by the Board… If the Board of Supervisors…determines not to accept all or some of the recommendations…, the Board of Supervisors… shall communicate in writing to the Board its reasons for not accepting the recommendations."*

Methodology for Review and Recommendations: The Board established a standardized method to review the safety element of general plans. The methodology includes 1) examining the general plan for inclusion of factors that are important for mitigation of fire hazard and risks, and 2) making recommendations related to these factors. The evaluation factors and recommendations were developed using CAL FIRE technical documents and input from local fire departments.

Enclosed is the most expansive set of recommendations suggested by the Board. These recommendations are directed at communities that include:

- Most counties
- Widespread Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone acreage and/or State Responsibility Area acreage
- Extensive financial and physical resources
- Broad community support
- Previous wildfire protection planning efforts

The General Plan Safety Element of each jurisdiction that fits those criteria will be assessed based on the recommendations below.

Review Process and Timeline

The county, local jurisdiction, and local fire unit will receive and review technical guidance documents, the BOF checklist, and other relevant information from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and CAL FIRE.

The county or local jurisdiction will work closely with the local fire unit during the development of the general plan and the safety element in particular.

90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of the General Plan: The county or local jurisdiction will submit the safety element to the local fire unit for review.

No more than 30 days later: The unit will submit to the BOF their findings and recommendations.

No more than 60 days later: The Board will consider the fire unit's recommendations and will approve or approve with amendments the recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Standard List of General Plan Safety Element Recommendations

Please click on the appropriate box to "check" whether the plan satisfies each point. Standard recommendations are included in the checklist but please highlight or add additional comments as necessary.

1.0 **Wildfire Protection Planning**

1.1 General Plan references and incorporates County or Unit Fire Plan. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Identify, reference or create (if necessary) a fire plan for the geographic scope of the General Plan. General Plan should incorporate the general concepts and standards from any county fire plan, fire protection agency (federal or state) fire plan, and local hazard mitigation plan. Identify or reference the local Unit Fire Plan and, if applicable, the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Ensure fire plans incorporated by reference into the contain evaluations of fire hazards, assessment of assets at risk, prioritization of hazard mitigation actions, and implementation and monitoring components.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

> **Additional Wildfire Protection Planning Recommendations:**

2.0 **Land Use Planning:**

2.1 Goals and policies include mitigation of fire hazard for future development. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for specific ordinances addressing evacuation and emergency vehicle access; water supplies and fire flow; fuel modification for defensible space; and home addressing and signing.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐ N/A

Recommendation: Specify the local ordinances, code sections, or regulations addressing the above standards, particularly any ordinances that address right-of-way, easement, and other reasonable offsite and onsite improvements for a division of land which qualifies for a Parcel Map rather than a Tentative/Final Map under the Subdivision Map Act.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Develop fire safe development codes used as standards for fire protection for new development in State Responsibility Area (SRA) within the entity's jurisdiction that meet or exceed statewide standards in Title14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Adopt, and have certified by the BOF, local fire safe ordinances which meet or exceed standards in 14 CCR § 1270 for State Responsibility Area.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Consider mitigation of previously developed areas that do not meet Title14 California Code of Regulations Section 1270 et seq. or equivalent local ordinance.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

2.2   Disclose wildland urban interface hazards, including Fire Hazard Severity Zone designations and other vulnerable areas as determined by CAL FIRE or fire prevention organizations. Describe or map any Firewise Communities or other firesafe communities as determined by the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Safe Council, or other organizations. ☐Yes ☐ Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Specify whether the entity has a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) designation pursuant GC 51175 and include a map of the zones that clearly indicates any area designated VHFHSZ.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Adopt CAL FIRE recommended Fire Hazard Severity Zones including model ordinances developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for establishing VHFHSZ areas.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Discuss and/or include local fire hazard maps.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

2.3   The design and location of new development provides for adequate infrastructure for the safe ingress of emergency response vehicles and simultaneously allows civilian egress during an emergency: ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps and tentative maps is conditional based on meeting regulations adopted pursuant to §4290 and 4291 of the Public Resources Code, particularly those regarding road standards for ingress, egress, and fire equipment access.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Develop pre-plans for fire prone areas that address civilian evacuations to temporary safety locations.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

2.4   When approving parcel maps and use permits, consideration is given to providing adequate water supply infrastructure that meets zoning and fire protection needs. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Develop a policy that approval of parcel maps is conditional based on

meeting zoning requirements and fire safe development codes.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

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│  **Additional Land Use Planning Recommendations:**                        │
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3.0   Housing/Structures and Neighborhoods:

3.1   Incorporation of current fire safe building codes. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Adopt building codes for new development in State Responsibility Areas or incorporated areas with VHFHSZ that are based on those established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal in Title 19 and Title 24 CCR, referred to as the "Wildland Urban Interface Building Codes."
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

3.2   Identification and actions for substandard fire safe housing and neighborhoods relative to fire hazard area. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Identify and map existing housing structures that do not conform to contemporary fire standards in terms of building materials, perimeter access, and vegetative hazards in VHFHSZ or SRA by fire hazard zone designation.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Identify plans and actions to improve substandard housing structures and neighborhoods.   Plans and actions should include structural rehabilitation, occupancy reduction, demolition, reconstruction, neighborhood –wide fuels hazard reduction projects, community education, and other community based solutions.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Identify plans and actions for existing residential structures and neighborhoods, and particularly substandard residential structures and neighborhoods, to be improved to meet current fire safe ordinances pertaining to access, water flow, signing, and vegetation clearing.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

3.3   Consideration of diverse occupancies and their effects on wildfire protection.
☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Ensure risks to uniquely occupied structures, such as seasonally occupied homes, multiple dwelling structures, or other structures with unique occupancy characteristics, are considered for appropriate and unique wildfire protection needs.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

3.4   Fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ.   ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

        Recommendation: Ensure new development proposals contain specific fire protection plans, actions, and codes for fire engineering features for structures in VHFHSZ. Examples include codes requiring automatic sprinklers in VHFHSZ.
        Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

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        │ **Additional Housing/Structures and Neighborhoods Recommendations:**   │
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4.0   Conservation and Open Space:

4.1   Identification of critical natural resource values relative to fire hazard areas. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

        Recommendation: Identify critical natural resources and other "open space" values within the geographic scope of the General Plan.
        Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

4.2   Inclusion of resource management activities to enhance protection of open space and natural resource values. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

        Recommendation: Develop plans and action items for vegetation management that provides fire damage mitigation and protection of open space values. Plans should address protection of natural resource financial values, establishment of fire resilient natural resources, protection of watershed qualities, and protection of endangered species habitats. Actions should consider prescribed burning, fuel breaks, and vegetation thinning and removal
        Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

        Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for reducing the wildland fire hazards within the entity's boundaries, especially on vacant residential lots and greenbelts and, with the relevant partners, on adjacent private wildlands or federal lands with fire hazards that threaten the entity's jurisdiction.
        Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

4.3   Integration of open space into fire safety effectiveness. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

        Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for incorporating systematic fire protection improvements for open space. Specifics policies should address facilitation of safe fire suppression tactics, standards for adequate access for firefighting, fire mitigation planning with agencies/private landowners managing open space adjacent to the GP area, water sources for fire suppression, and other fire prevention and suppression needs.
        Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

4.4   Urban forestry plans relative to fire protection. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Ensure residential areas have appropriate fire resistant landscapes and discontinuous vegetation adjacent to open space or wildland areas.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Evaluate and resolve existing laws and local ordinances which conflict with fire protection requirements. Examples include conflicts with vegetation hazard reduction ordinances and listed species habitat protection requirements.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

4.5   Mitigation for unique pest, disease and other forest health issues leading to hazardous situations. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies that address unique pest, disease, exotic species and other forest health issues in open space areas for purposes of reducing fire hazard and supporting ecological integrity.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Additional Conservation and Open Space Recommendations:

5.0   Circulation and Access:

5.1   Adequate access to high hazard wildland/open space areas. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for adequate access in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones that meet or exceed standards in Title 14 CCR 1270 for lands with no structures, and maintain conditions of access in a suitable fashion for suppression access or public evacuation.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

5.2   Standards for evacuation of residential areas in high hazard areas. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Goals and policies should be established to delineate residential evacuation routes and evacuation plans in high or very high fire hazard residential areas.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

5.3   Incorporate a policy that provides for a fuel maintenance program along roadways in the agency having jurisdiction. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Develop an adaptive vegetation management plan that considers fuels, topography, weather (prevailing winds and wind event specific to the area), fire ignitions and

fire history.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

5.4 Adequacy of existing and future transportation system to incorporate fire infrastructure elements. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for proposed and existing transportation systems to facilitate fire infrastructure elements such as turnouts, helispots and safety zones.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Additional Circulation and Access Recommendations:

6.0   <u>Defensible Space</u>

6.1 Develop geographic specific fire risk reduction mitigation measures using fuel modification. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Include policies and recommendations that incorporate fire safe buffers and greenbelts as part of the development planning. Ensure that land uses designated near very fire hazard severity zones are compatible with wildland fire protection strategies/capabilities.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

6.2 Fuel modification around homes. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish ordinances in SRA or VHFHSZ for vegetation fire hazard reduction around structures that meet or exceed the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Defensible Space Guidelines for SRA and the Very High Fire Hazard severity zones, including vacant lots.
See http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9_29_06.pdf
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Reduce fuel around communities and subdivisions, considering fuels, topography, weather (prevailing winds and wind event specific to the area), fire ignitions and fire history.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

6.3 Fire suppression defense zones. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies that create wildfire defense zones for emergency services, including fuel breaks or other staging areas where WUI firefighting tactics could be most effectively deployed.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

7.0 Emergency Services:

7.1 Map/describe existing emergency service facilities and areas lacking services, specifically noting any areas in SRA or VHFHSZs. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Include descriptions of emergency services including available equipment, personnel, and maps of facility locations.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Initiate studies and analyses to identify appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs commensurate with the current and projected emergency response environment.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

7.2 Assessment and projection of future emergency service needs. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Ensure new development includes appropriate facilities, equipment, personnel and capacity to assist and support wildfire suppression emergency service needs. Future emergency service needs should be:
- Established consistent with state or national standards.
- Developed based on criteria for determining suppression resource allocation that includes elements such as identified values and assets at risk, ignition density, vegetation type and condition, as well as local weather and topography.
- Local Agency Formation municipal services reviews for evaluating level of service, response times, equipment condition levels and other relevant emergency service information.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

7.3 Adequacy of training. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for emergency service training that meets or exceeds state or national standards.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

7.4 Inter-fire service coordination preparedness/mutual aid and multi-jurisdictional fire service agreements. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Adopt the Standardized Emergency Management System for responding to large scale disasters requiring a multi-agency response. Ensure and review mutual aid/automatic aid and other cooperative agreements with adjoining emergency service providers.

Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Additional Emergency Services Recommendations:

8.0 <u>**Post Fire Safety, Recovery and Maintenance:**</u>
The post fire recommendations address an opportunity for the community and landowners to re-evaluate land uses and practices that affect future wildfire hazards and risk. They also provide for immediate post-fire life and safety considerations to mitigate potential losses to life, human assets and critical natural resources.

8.1 Evaluation of redevelopment. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: In High and Very hazardous areas, ensure redevelopment utilizes state of the art fire resistant building and development standards to improve past 'substandard" fire safe conditions.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

8.2 Long term maintenance of fire hazard reduction mitigation projects. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Provide polices and goals for maintenance of the post-fire-recovery projects, activities, or infrastructure.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

8.3 Revaluate hazardous conditions and provide for future fire safe conditions. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Incorporate goals and policies that provide for reassessment of fire hazards following wildfire events. Adjust fire prevention and suppression needs for both short and long term fire protection.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Develop burn area recovery plans that incorporate strategic fire safe measures developed during the fire suppression, such as access roads, fire lines, safety zones, and fuelbreaks, and helispots.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

8.4 Post fire life and safety assessments. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Develop frameworks for rapid post-fire assessment and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Identity flood and landslide vulnerability areas related to post wildfire conditions.

Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies that address the intersection of flood /landslide/post fire burn areas into long term public safety protection plans. These should include treatment assessment of fire related flood risk to life, methods to control storm runoff in burn areas, revegetation of burn areas, and drainage crossing maintenance.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Encourage rapid post-fire assessment, as appropriate, and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

8.5   Restore sustainable landscapes and restore functioning ecosystems. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Develop burn area recovery plans, evaluation processes and implementation actions that encourage tree and biomass salvage, reforestation activities, create resilient and sustainable landscapes, and restore functioning ecosystems.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

8.6   Incorporate wildlife habitat/endangered species considerations. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies for consideration of wildlife habitat/endangered species into long term fire area recovery and protection plans, including environmental protection agreements such as natural community conservation plans.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

8.7   Native species reintroduction. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Incorporate native species habitat needs as part of long term fire protection and fire restoration plans.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Additional Post Fire Safety, Recovery and Maintenance Recommendations:

9.0   Terrorist and homeland security impacts on wildfire protection:
These recommendations are included to address fire protection needs related to terrorist acts or other homeland security preparedness and response actions. Both preparedness and incident response can adversely impact fire protection. Adverse effects include substantially decreasing emergency resources' availability, responsiveness and effectiveness by diverting resources, interrupting communications, or restricting emergency access.

9.1   Emergency response barriers. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Identify goals and policies that address vital access routes that if removed would prevent fire fighter access (bridges, dams, etc.). Develop an alternative emergency access plan for these areas.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

9.2 Prioritizing asset protection from fire when faced with a lack of suppression forces.
☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Identify and prioritize protection needs for assets at risk in the absence of response forces.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Recommendation: Establish fire defense strategies (such as fire ignition resistant areas) that provide adequate fire protection without dependency on fire resources (both air and ground) and could serve as safety zones for the public or emergency support personnel.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

9.3 Communication channels during incidents. ☐Yes ☐Partial ☐No

Recommendation: Establish goals and policies consistent with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission of 2005 for communications and interoperability. Example goals and policies should address fire personnel capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands and update and expansion of current handheld and mobile radios used on major mutual aid incidents.
Priority: ☐High ☐ Medium ☐ Low ☐N/A

Additional Terrorist and Homeland Security Recommendations:

Additional Recommendations: